

B<sup>1</sup> This non-provisional patent application claims benefit of priority of provisional patent application U.S. Serial number 60/215,960, filed July 5, 2000, now abandoned.

IN THE CLAIMS

{ Please amend claim 1 as follows: }

1. (Amended) A method of recovering cellular functions *in vitro* in cells following injury, comprising the step of:

contacting said cells with ascorbic acid or a salt of ascorbic acid,

B<sup>2</sup> wherein said cellular functions include proliferation, mitochondrial function, Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase protein expression, Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase protein activity, and active Na<sup>+</sup> transport.

Please cancel claim 2. /

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

B<sup>3</sup> 11. (Amended) A method of recovering cellular functions following injury in an individual in need of treatment, comprising the step of:

administering a therapeutically effective amount of ascorbic acid or a salt of ascorbic acid to said individual,

B<sup>3</sup> wherein said cellular functions include proliferation, mitochondrial function, Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase protein expression, Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase protein activity, and active Na<sup>+</sup> transport.

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Please amend claim 12 as follows:

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B<sup>4</sup> 12. (Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said injury is selected from the group consisting of halogenated hydrocarbons-induced nephrotoxicity, ischemia-induced acute renal failure, drug-induced acute renal failure, glomerulonephritis, skin abrasions, cuts and burns.

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Please cancel claim 14.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

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B<sup>5</sup> 15.(Amended) 15. A method of recovering cellular functions in eye diseases or following injury to eye of an individual in need of treatment, comprising the step of:

administering an ophthalmic composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of ascorbic acid or a salt of ascorbic acid in an ophthalmically acceptable carrier to said individual,

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wherein said cellular functions include proliferation, mitochondrial function, Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase protein expression, Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase protein activity, and active Na<sup>+</sup> transport and wherein said ascorbic acid is in the concentration range of from about 0.05 mM to about 0.5 mM.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

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16. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said injury is selected from the group consisting of acute injury to the eye, eye diseases associated with the over production of collagen as in conjunctivitis and diabetes mellitus and eye disease associated with the under production of collagen as in rheumatoid arthritis.